(c) and (d) Though the Kerala State Government has not supported the import of Coconut oil, no assurance appeals to have been given by the Government in the past not to import Copra or Coconut oil.

Trading in REP Licences

957. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the trading in Replenishment (REP) licences at high premium has become a flourishing business recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) to (c) In terms of para 199 of the Import and Export Policy, 1990-93 (Vol. I), Import Replenishment Licences (REP Licences) are freely transferable. The amount of premium on transfer of such licences is guided by the market forces. Government do not keep any statistics on the premium charged on such transfers.

Introduction of transparent accounting system for banks

958. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a transparent accounting system for the public sector banks; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Merger of New Bank of India with another Nationalised Bank

959 SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for merging New Bank of India with another nationalised bank;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that almost all the major organisations of bank officers and employees have opposed the proposed merger; and

(d) if so, on what grounds and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is not contemplating to merge New Bank of India with another nationalised bank.

(c) and (d) All India New Bank of India Officers Association All India New Bank of India Employees Federation and others have represented to the Government that the merger of New Bank of India with another public sector bank will shake public confidence in public sector banks They have further suggested that New Bank of India should be retained as an independent entity and financial assistance should be provided to ensure its viability

Expiry of the wage agreement in the spinning unit at Chandrapur under NTC

960 SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state